## CLAIMS

1. A method of representing users (1, 2, 3, 4) on a display device (21,22,23,24) in a telecommunications conferencing facility by means of graphical representations corresponding to the respective users, wherein the users (1,2,3,4) are depicted as carrying out symbolic actions, relating to the various events taking place during the virtual telecommunications conferencing process, each user (1) being presented with a viewpoint representative of the position of that user (1) in a virtual space and in which the other users (2,3,4) and their activities are represented by means of graphical representations, and characterised in that in the viewpoint presented to each user (1) the representations of each of the other users (2,3,4) are in positions, and have movements, relative to each other and the viewpoint, selected according to the viewpoint of the user (1).

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein for each user (1), the representations of each of the other users (2,3,4) are arranged such that they are all contained within the field of view of the user's display device (21).

3. A method according to claim 2, in which the symbolic actions are selected such that they take place within a fixed field of view.

4. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the accessing of a facility by one user (1) for viewing by other users (2,3,4) is represented in a different manner for the viewing users (2,3,4) and the accessing user (1).

5. A method according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein users (3) not currently actively engaged in the telecommunications conference are represented in a different manner from those currently viewing the conference (2,4).

6. Telecommunications conferencing system comprising display control means (10, 11,12,13,14) for representing users on display devices (21, 22, 23, 24) by means of graphical representations corresponding to the respective users (1,2,3,4), the display control means being arranged to depict symbolic actions carried out by users, relating to the various events taking place during the virtual telecommunications conferencing process, each user (1) being presented with a

viewpoint representative of the position of that user (1) in a virtual space and for presenting, to each user a representation of the other users and their activities; characterised in that the display control means (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) is arranged to represent the presence and activities of each user (2,3,4) to each other user (1) by means of symbolic positions and movements, presented to each user (1) such that in the viewpoint presented to each user (1) the representations of each of the other users (2,3,4) are in relative positions, and have relative movements, selected according to the viewpoint of the user (1).

7. Conferencing system according to claim 6, wherein the display control means is arranged to represent, for each user (1), each of the other users (2 ,3, 4) such that they are all subtended within the field of view of the display device (21) of that user (1).

8. Conferencing system according to claim 7, in which the symbolic actions are selected such that they take place within a fixed field of view.

9. Conferencing system according to any of claims 6 to 8 comprising means for accessing a facility by one user (1) for viewing by other users (2 ,3, 4) wherein the accessed facility is represented in a different manner for the viewing users and the accessing user.

10. Conferencing system according to any of claims 6 to 9, wherein the display control means (10, 11, 13, 14) is arranged to represent users (3) not currently actively engaged in the telecommunications conference in a different manner from those (2 ,4) currently viewing the conference.

11. System according to any of claims 6 to 10, comprising client means (11, 12, 13, 14) associated with each user (1, 2, 3, 4) for generating at least part of the user's viewpoint.

12. System according to any of claims 6 to 11, comprising server means (10) accessible by each user (1, 2, 3, 4) for generating at least part of the users' viewpoints.

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